



United States Department
of Agriculture

National Agricultural
Statistics Service

Washington Agricultural Statistics Service
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Washington Crop Weather

Released: May 5, 2003, 1:00 p.m.
Week Ending: May 4, 2003
CWP WA-CW1803

Spring Planting Neared Completion Across Palouse Rain Improved Range and Pasture Conditions

Field Crops

Spring planting of cereal and pulse crops neared completion across the Palouse in spite of showers during the week. Some producers in the northeast were having to reseed due to the heavy rain. Potato planting was nearly complete in Adams County, while Kittitas County was just beginning. In the west, Christmas tree growers were finishing up planting and applying fertilizer. Hybrid poplar plantations were completely foliated.

Livestock

Dairy producers harvested green chop from rapidly growing forage fields in the west. Spring range conditions in the central region were considerably improved with the recent rains. The spring rains were especially helpful to the newly seeded timothy and alfalfa fields in Kittitas County. Range and pasture conditions were 1% poor, 67% fair, 31% good, and 1% excellent.

Fruits and Vegetables

For many Kitsap County vegetable growers, fieldwork was on schedule, while some locations around the county have been receiving more rain and cooler temperatures. Fruit trees continued to blossom in Snohomish and northern King Counties. In Grant County, hail around the Royal Slope area caused damage to the fruit crop while hail in Douglas County around the Bridgeport area did not generate any damage reports. Sweet corn planting was underway in Grant and Kittitas Counties. Asparagus harvest continued in Adams and Walla Walla.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	5.7
Last Week	5.2

Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	0	7	92	1
Subsoil	0	9	90	1
Irrigation Water	0	9	91	0
Hay & Roughage	0	7	93	0

VS=Very Short SH=Short AD=Adequate S=Surplus

Crop Progress

Crop/Activity	Percent Completed			
	This Week	Last Week	2002	5 Yr. Avg.
Spring Wheat Planted	96	88	89	92
Spring Wheat Emerged	70	57	63	70
Winter Wheat Headed	3	0	3	2
Barley Planted	97	81	78	86
Barley Emerged	67	39	52	59
Potatoes Planted	88	65	68	83
Potatoes Emerged	32	16	28	37
Corn Planted	67	51	35	51
Corn Emerged	10	4	0	2
Dry Edible Beans Planted	35	13	14	3
Proc. Green Peas Planted	84	54	46	43
Dry Peas Planted	73	43	48	64
Alfalfa Hay 1st Cutting	8	0	3	1

Crop Condition*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Winter Wheat Dryland	2	7	20	52	19
Winter Wheat Irrigated	0	0	2	80	18
Spring Wheat Dryland	0	0	44	34	22
Spring Wheat Irrigated	0	0	7	93	0
Barley Dryland	0	0	32	39	29
Barley Irrigated	0	0	0	100	0

VP=Very Poor P=Poor F=Fair G=Good EX=Excellent

* Crop conditions are a measurement of the growing conditions and are not indicative of the quality of the crop produced.

COUNTY COMMENTS

Western

Grays Harbor: Ag producers once again became landscape artists with tractors and plows as they furled deep, chocolate brown soils across the valley floors throughout the county. The earth tones, combined with the vivid chartreuse and emerald greens of native plant material, on adjacent hills, were a beehive of activity as jubilant farmers raced to complete field cultivation in preparation for planting corn. Truck farmers were planting early season vegetables and preparing soils for warm season crops, to be planted in another two weeks. Blueberry growers reported excellent bloom with an early anticipation of above average yields. Hybrid poplar plantations were completely foliated, resulting in massive oceans of green. The distant hum of tractors throughout the county marked the official beginning of yet another growing season in the county where nearly 450 farms will produce an enormous diversity of agricultural products that span the alphabet, ranging from artichokes to zinnias for cut flowers.

Kitsap: Site preparation and planting continued, with farmers trying to catch up due to the cool, wet weather conditions. For many vegetable producers fieldwork was on schedule, while some locations around the county have been receiving more rain and cooler temperatures.

Pierce/S. King: Crop conditions improved over the last week. Producers were able to get out onto the fields to do their planting. There were no unusual situations to report and no reports of crop damage.

Snohomish/N. King: Occasional showers were received throughout the week with a good downpour received on Sunday. Fieldwork continued as weather permitted. Pastures growth was excellent. Apple blossom was in full swing.

Snohomish/N. King (2nd Report): Dressing in layers was the safest way to go during the week. Most of the week was wet with temperatures below average. Several days were partly sunny with temperatures in the high 50's. Fruit trees continued to blossom, and Christmas tree farms finished up with their planting. Early vegetable crops were being planted in drier soils. Dairies continued to harvest grass crops as weather permitted.

Thurston: Warm, sunny days throughout the week quickly reduced soil moisture, allowing ag producers to begin field cultivation in earnest. Blueberry growers mowed cover crops in fields and continued with fungicide applications. Christmas tree growers were finishing up with fertilized applications and beginning to put out bird perches. Dairy producers started harvesting green chop from rapidly growing forage fields. Truck farmers reported excellent sales of bedding plants and vegetable transplants at the Olympia Farmer's Market.

Whatcom: The week's weather was very nice. Green chopping was in full swing. Producers were out preparing their fields for planting. Low fields had a chance to dry out a bit.

Central

Benton: Cool, wet weather slowed down crop advancement. Thinning, weed control, and irrigation were major activities with tree fruits and vines.

Chelan: Everything was developing well this week. Variable blooms were on the apple crop.

Douglas/Chelan: Some hail was received in the Bridgeport area of Douglas County. There was no damage to fruit crops reported. Winter wheat was improving with the recent moisture.

Ferry/Okanogan: Spring range conditions were considerably improved with the recent rains that the counties have been receiving. Some warm weather will enhance growth even more. Apple bloom has reached 100 percent.

Grant: Sweet corn planting continued. Export and dairy hay was in short supply. Hail was received in the Royal

Slope area midweek, which caused damage to the fruit crop.

Kittitas: More precipitation received during the week improved range and pasture conditions considerably, and helped the new seeding timothy and alfalfa fields. Early sweet corn planting will begin within the week. Potato planting was in its early stages.

Klickitat: Unusually cold and wet weather delayed crop development. However; crop, pasture, and range productivity should be better than the past several years once warm weather begins.

Yakima: Average temperatures varied from 6 degrees above normal to 4 degrees below normal, with .11 of an inch of precipitation. No new crop losses due to weather conditions were reported.

Eastern

Adams: Another nice growing week in the Central Basin had grain crops leaping ahead. Asparagus harvest continued while potato planting was nearly complete.

Asotin/Garfield: Crop development slowed down due to the cool temperatures. Rangeland was also growing slow due to the cool weather. Most producers completed seeding with the exception of the higher elevations, where rain and showers continued to delay planting.

Pend Oreille/Spokane: Limited fieldwork was done during the week in some areas of the county and other areas were in the field for 3-4 days. Crops were growing slow due to the cool, wet weather. Some reports were received of producers having to reseed due to the heavy rain on the seed ground.

Stevens: The county experienced frost early in the week. The weekend brought clouds and rain. During mid-week,

grain and hay farmers were in the fields seeding spring crops. Cattle continued to move to pastures. Warm temperatures were still needed for pasture growth and crop development.

Walla Walla: Weather conditions have been favorable in most areas. Crops appeared in good condition. Rangeland began to show signs of growth. Asparagus harvest was in full swing.

Whitman: Spring planting of cereal and pulse crops neared completion across the county in spite of showers during the week. Winter wheat conditions looked very good to excellent and spring crops that have emerged looked very good. However, the potential for foliar diseases such as rust on spring cereals was high due to the cool, damp conditions.

Whitman (2nd Report): The rainy weather pattern continued on the Palouse with showers, heavy at times, continuing to slow producers as they try to finish their spring work.

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Weekly Weather Statistics

May 5, 2003

Station	Air Temperature				Growing Degree Days				Last Week Precipitation			Season Precipitation			
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	Base 50F		Base 60F		Total			Total		% Normal	Days
					TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	Inches	DFN	Days	Inches	DFN		
WEST															
Bellingham	44	69	54	4	28	14	0	0	0.17	-0.40	2	22.31	-7.40	75	120
Everett	44	65	52	2	20	3	0	0	0.06	-0.50	1	22.53	-7.15	76	122
Hoquiam	42	69	53	2	21	5	0	0	0.47	-0.37	3	58.79	-1.54	97	137
Kelso	43	68	55	4	33	12	0	0	0.00	-0.65	0	23.19	-16.63	58	97
Olympia	39	71	52	2	18	4	0	0	0.56	-0.02	3	35.76	-9.32	79	128
Sea-Tac	43	67	53	2	22	1	0	0	0.23	-0.19	4	29.77	-2.56	92	120
Shelton	34	70	53	0	23	-2	0	0	0.46	-0.22	2	53.39	-5.55	91	127
Tacoma	39	68	52	0	21	-1	0	0	0.19	-0.34	3	25.62	-9.00	74	116
Vancouver	41	71	55	4	38	17	0	0	1.08	-0.52	4	33.14	-2.45	93	125
CENTRAL															
Ellensburg	36	68	51	1	12	-8	0	0	0.36	0.25	4	7.69	0.41	106	73
Omak	36	70	54	5	32	16	0	0	0.66	0.34	2	11.56	0.94	109	56
Stampede Pass	32	53	41	4	0	0	0	0	0.16	-0.77	1	54.91	-16.80	77	123
Wenatchee	39	72	56	2	44	5	0	-3	0.04	-0.10	2	8.59	1.97	130	69
Yakima AP	35	70	53	0	24	-6	0	0	0.11	0.04	3	7.83	1.36	121	52
NORTHEAST															
Colville	31	72	53	4	27	11	0	0	0.00	-0.40	0	14.56	-1.46	91	59
Deer Park	34	66	48	-2	4	-12	0	0	0.35	0.00	2	18.51	4.23	130	84
Spokane AP	34	65	50	-1	6	-8	0	0	0.21	-0.07	5	13.22	0.63	105	89
EAST CENTRAL															
Ephrata	38	72	54	-2	31	-13	0	-6	0.01	-0.09	1	7.36	1.65	129	50
Moses Lake	39	73	55	-2	37	-7	0	-6	0.30	0.20	3	7.68	1.97	135	69
Quincy	38	71	54	0	33	-5	0	-3	0.00	-0.10	0	6.00	-0.22	96	49
Ritzville	32	70	50	-1	9	-8	0	0	0.11	-0.10	1	10.51	1.47	116	74
SOUTHEAST															
Hanford	41	77	57	-2	48	-16	0	-14	0.08	-0.01	2	7.80	2.47	146	63
Pasco	37	78	58	0	55	1	0	-7	0.00	-0.11	0	6.58	0.55	109	68
Pullman	31	65	48	-2	3	-11	0	0	0.07	-0.28	3	8.56	-8.10	51	78
Whitman Miss.	34	75	55	2	37	2	1	1	0.21	-0.07	2	13.67	2.83	126	108
ID PANHANDLE															
Coeur D'A' AP	36	68	50	-2	9	-11	0	0	0.12	-0.30	3	15.85	-4.09	79	82
Lewiston ID	38	69	54	-1	29	-9	0	0	0.68	0.40	4	10.66	2.08	124	94

Summary based on NWS data.

Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Wednesday September 1, 2002

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).

NA = Data Unavailable

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.

Precipitation Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more.

Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

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